

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 10 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-5, 7, 11-13, 16, 20 and 23-25 are amended. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A isolated protease selected from the group consisting of
a. ~~a protease comprising an amino acid sequence which has at least 8590% identity with the amino acid sequence shown as amino acids 1 to 226 of SEQ ID NO: 2;~~
b. ~~a protease which is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence which hybridises under low stringency conditions with~~
(i) ~~a complementary strand of the nucleic acid sequence shown as nucleotides 127 to 804 of SEQ ID NO:1, or~~
(ii) ~~a subsequence of (i) of at least 100 nucleotides; and~~
c. ~~a protease which has 1 to 50, preferably 1 to 40, or 1 to 30, more preferably 1-20, most preferably 1-10 amino acid substitutions compared to the amino acid sequence shown as amino acids 1 to 226 of SEQ ID NO: 2 and having protease activity.~~

Claim 2. (Currently amended) A The protease according to claim 1 having an amino acid sequence which has more than 85.0%, ~~or more than 90.0%, or more than 92.0%, or more than 94.0%, or more than 96.0%, or more than 97.0%, or more than 98.0%, or more than 99.0%~~ identity with the amino acid sequence shown as amino acids 1 to 226 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) A The protease according to claim 1, which comprises the amino acid sequence shown as amino acids 1 to 226 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) A The protease according to claim 1, which consists of the amino acid sequence shown as amino acids 1 to 226 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) A The protease according to claim 1, wherein the protease is a variant of a protease having the amino acid sequence shown as amino acids -25 to 226 of SEQ ID NO:2 comprising a substitution, deletion, and/or insertion of one or more amino acid

residues.

Claim 6.(Canceled)

Claim 7. (Currently amended) A-~~The~~ protease according to claim 1 having ~~more than 85.0%, or more than 90.0%, or more than 92.0%, or more than 94.0%, or more than 96.0%, or more than 97.0%, or more than 98.0%, or more than 99.0%~~ identity with the mature part of the protease encoded by the protease encoding part of the polynucleotide cloned into a plasmid fragment present in Escherichia coli deposited under the accession No. DSM 15940.

Claim 8-10.(Canceled)

Claim 11. (Currently amended) A-~~The~~ protease according to claim 1, where the protease is a trypsin like protease.

Claim 12. (Currently amended) A-~~The~~ protease according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1,~~ where the protease ~~—when tested in “Example V Stability in detergent”—~~has a residual activity of at least 50% after storage for 30 minutes at 35°C when tested using the method disclosed in Example V.

Claim 13. (Currently amended) A-~~The~~ protease according to claim 11, where the protease has a residual activity of at least 55% after storage for 30 minutes at 35°C, ~~such as at least 60% after storage at 35°C, more preferably at least 65% after storage at 35°C.~~

Claim 14. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid sequence comprising a nucleic acid sequence which encodes for the protease defined in claim 1.

Claim 15.(Canceled)

Claim 16. (Currently amended) A-~~The~~ nucleic acid sequence according to claim 14, having a nucleic acid sequence which has ~~at least 86%, such as at least 87%, e.g. at least 88%, preferably at least 89%, such as at least 90%, e.g. at least 91%, more preferably at least 92%, such as at least 93%, e.g. at least 94%, most preferably at least 95%, such as at least 96%, e.g.~~

~~at least 97%, in particular at least 98%, preferably at least 99%~~ identity with the nucleic acid sequence shown as nucleotides 52 to 804 of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) A nucleic acid construct comprising the nucleic acid sequence of claim 14 operably linked to one or more control sequences capable of directing the expression of the protease in a suitable host.

Claim 18. (Original) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid construct of claim 17, a promoter, and transcriptional and translational stop signals.

Claim 19. (Original) A recombinant host cell comprising the nucleic acid construct of claim 17.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) A host cell according to claim 19, which is a fungus or yeast, ~~preferably a filamentous fungus, especially an Aspergillus.~~

Claim 21.-22.(Canceled)

Claim 23. (Currently amended) A method for producing the protease according to claim 1, the method comprising:

- f. cultivating a recombinant host cell as defined ~~in any of claims 19-22~~ under conditions conducive to the production of the protease; and
- g. recovering the protease.

Claim 24. (Currently amended) A cleaning or detergent composition, ~~preferably a laundry or dishwash composition,~~ comprising the protease according to claim 1.

Claim 25. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The composition according to claim 24, which additionally comprises a cellulase, lipase, cutinase, oxidoreductase, another protease, an amylase, or a mixture thereof.

Claim 26. (Canceled)

Claim 27. (Previously presented) A method for cleaning or washing a hard surface or laundry, the method comprising contacting the hard surface or the laundry with the composition defined in claim 25.